



Department of
Toxic Substances
Control

*Preventing
environmental
damage from
hazardous waste,
and restoring
contaminated
sites for all
Californians.*



State of California



California
Environmental
Protection Agency

Fact Sheet, March 2007

Notice of Proposed Consent Decree and Public Comment Period at Locomotive Air Services, Inc., Bell Gardens, CA

*Para información en español por favor comuníquese con Leticia Hernández al número
(714) 484-5488.*

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) invites you to comment on a proposed Consent Decree regarding the Locomotive Air Services Inc., (LASI) site. LASI, formerly known as Chrome Crankshaft Company is located at 6845 East Florence Place in Bell Gardens. The 2-acre former facility is a paved vacant lot. The surrounding area is residential and industrial and located directly west of Suva Elementary School and Suva Intermediate School.

DTSC regulates the generation, storage, treatment and disposal of hazardous waste in California. DTSC is overseeing the environmental investigation, testing and cleanup of the LASI site. Inside this fact sheet you will find more information on the site, how the contamination got there, and what the proposed Consent Decree means to our investigation and cleanup activities.

Site History

Chrome Crankshaft Company conducted chrome plating operations from 1963 to January 1999. In January 1999, Chrome Crankshaft Company voluntarily stopped plating activities and subsequently removed chrome plating equipment that was used in the plating operations. This was conducted in August 1999, and was known as "decommissioning". Thereafter, Chrome Crankshaft Company changed its name to LASI and used the building for a short time to refurbish locomotive air-conditioning units. These operations did not involve chrome plating or the use of hazardous materials. In 2001, these operations ceased. The building was demolished in January 2004 and a temporary asphalt cap was placed on the site.

Public Comment Period March 28, 2007 to April 27, 2007

A 30-day public comment period is being held to receive public comments on the proposed Consent Decree for the LASI site. **The public comment period begins March 28, 2007 and ends April 27, 2007.** We invite you to submit your comments during this time. We will consider and respond to your comments before a final decision is made. **Public comments must be postmarked or e-mailed no later than April 27, 2007, and sent to:**

Mr. Greg Holmes
Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630-4732
E-mail: gholmes@dtsc.ca.gov

Si desea información en español, comuníquese con Leticia Hernandez al
(714) 484-5488 o número gratis 1-866-495-5651.





Soil Contamination

Soil and groundwater contamination occurred mainly from past chrome plating operations that included spills onto the floor and other areas on the property. Contaminants detected include hexavalent chromium (known as Chrome VI), nickel, cadmium and volatile organic compounds. The primary concern is the hexavalent chromium that is currently beneath the pavement on the LASI site. Although there is hexavalent chromium (Chrome VI) in the groundwater beneath the site and offsite, no drinking water wells have yet been affected. Under our oversight, a number of investigations and response actions have been conducted at the site and a final cleanup plan will be developed in the near future, also under our oversight.

Consent Decree Summary

The purpose of the Consent Decree is to settle and resolve DTSC's claims against Varlen Corporation and related entities arising from and relating to hazardous releases occurring at the LASI site. Varlen Corporation and related entities have agreed to pay \$5.1 million to DTSC to be placed in an account designated for site cleanup. These funds will enable DTSC to investigate and clean up existing releases of hazardous substances and other contaminants at the LASI site and address any threat to public health and safety and the environment arising from or relating to those releases. This \$5.1 million payment will settle all claims between DTSC and LASI and its parent companies, Varlen Corporation and Amsted Industries to perform essential investigation and cleanup activities for the site. DTSC may supplement the \$5.1 million funds with other funds, if necessary, and depending on their availability for investigation and cleanup of the LASI site. A Consent Decree is a judicial order that is negotiated and agreed to by the parties and submitted to the court for approval. After it is approved and final-

ized, it is a court order. The California Attorney General's Office on behalf of DTSC, filed the proposed LASI Consent Decree with the Federal District Court on March 28, 2007. The proposed Consent Decree can also be viewed at the Information Repositories listed inside this fact sheet.

DTSC Involvement Will Continue

Cleanup of the LASI site will be coordinated, to the extent possible, with cleanup of the adjacent J&S Chrome Plating site, since many of the contaminants are the same on both sites. DTSC will negotiate contracts with qualified firms to continue the investigation and carry out cleanup activities for the site. These contractors will submit future work plans to DTSC for technical review and subsequent approval.

How to Submit Your Comments

We want to know what you think of the proposed Consent Decree for the LASI site. **The 30-day public comment period begins March 28, 2007 and ends April 27, 2007.** You may provide your comments on the proposed Consent Decree during this time. **All public comments must be postmarked or e-mailed by April 27, 2007 and sent to:**

Mr. Greg Holmes
Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630-4732
E-mail: gholmes@dtsc.ca.gov

DTSC will consider and respond in writing to all public comments received.

Where to View Proposed Consent Decree and Other Project Documents

The proposed Consent Decree may be viewed electronically at: www.dtsc.ca.gov. (Click on LASI listed under Hot Topics, then click on Consent Decree 2007). Copies of the proposed Consent Decree and other related project documents are available for public review at the following Information Repositories:

Commerce Central Library
5655 Jillson Street
Commerce, CA 90040-1493
(323) 722-6660
Mon – Thurs 10:00AM – 8:00PM
Friday - 10:00AM – 6:00PM
Saturday - 10:00AM – 2:00PM
Sunday - Closed

Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630-4732
(714) 484-5337
Mon – Fri 8:00AM – 5:00PM
Please contact Ms. Julie Johnson at the above number
to make an appointment.

Who to Contact at DTSC for Information

If you have any questions about the LASI site project
or proposed Consent Decree, please contact the fol-
lowing persons:

Mr. Greg Holmes
Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630-4732
(714) 484-5461
E-mail: gholmes@dtsc.ca.gov

Ms. Stacey Lear, Public Participation Specialist
Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630-4732
(714) 484-5354 or toll-free 1-866- 495-5651
E-mail: slear@dtsc.ca.gov

For Media Inquiries

Ms. Jeanne Garcia, Public Information Officer
Department of Toxic Substances Control
1101 N. Grandview Avenue
Glendale, CA 91201-2205
(818) 551-5383
E-mail: jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov

*For more information about our department, please
visit our website at www.dtsc.ca.gov.*

Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals

TDD users can use the California Relay Service at
1-888-877-5378 to reach Ms. Stacey Lear, DTSC
Public Participation Specialist at (714) 484-5354 or
toll-free 1-866-495-5651.

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED CONSENT DECREE AND 30-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
LOCOMOTIVE AIR SERVICES, INC., (LASI) SITE, FORMERLY CHROME CRANKSHAFT COMPANY
6845 EAST FLORENCE PLACE, BELL GARDENS, CA**

DTSC mailings are solely for the purpose of keeping persons informed of DTSC activities. Mailing lists are not routinely released to outside parties. However, they are considered public records and, if requested, may be subject to release.



Stacey Lear, Public Participation Specialist

Department of Toxic Substances Control

5796 Corporate Avenue

Cypress, California 90630

Inside: Information on the LASI Site (formerly Chrome Crankshaft Company)

For more information about the DTSC, please visit our web site at www.dtsc.ca.gov